

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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FOR COVEY FROM S/PRS (TRATTNER)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, TUESDAY,

1. DONATION OF SECRETARY'S NOTES OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS TO LIBRARY OF CONGRESS: ACTING DEPUTY SPOKESMAN READ INTO RECORD FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT:

QUOTE: SECRETARY KISSINGER ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT HE IS DONATING TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, FOR PRESERVATION AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, THE TRANSCRIBED SECRETARIAL NOTES OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS DURING HIS YEARS IN GOVERNMENT.

THE NOTES WERE MADE AS A MEMORY AID AND TO INSURE APPROPRIATE ADMINISTRATIVE FOLLOW-UP, BUT WERE NOT IN THEMSELVES ACTION DOCUMENTS. THEY WERE NEVER CIRCULATED, AND

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ANY ACTION RESULTING FROM THE CONVERSATIONS WOULD BE CONTAINED IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE FOLLOW-UP.

NEVERTHELESS, TO AVOID ANY MISINTERPRETATION DURING HIS FINAL DAYS IN PUBLIC OFFICE, THE SECRETARY HAS DECIDED TO GIVE THE NOTES AT THIS TIME TO THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, AS

PART OF THE GIFT TO THE NATION OF HIS PERSONAL AND PUBLIC PAPERS WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK. THE NOTES ARE BEING DONATED UNDER A SEPARATE DEED OF GIFT, BECAUSE OF THE SIGNIFICANT RIGHTS OF PRIVACY THAT MAY EXIST FOR PERSONS WHO WERE PARTIES TO THE TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS. THIS SEPARATE DEED OF GIFT INCORPORATES THE TERMS OF THE ORIGINAL DONATION. AT THE END OF THE TIME PERIOD SPECIFIED IN THE ORIGINAL DONATION, ANY PAPER IN THIS GROUP WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC ACCESS. THE SOLE DIFFERENCE IS THAT IF ONE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVERSATION IS STILL LIVING, HIS CONSENT MUST FIRST BE SECURED. A COPY OF THE DEED OF GIFT IS ATTACHED.
END QUOTE.

2. ASKED IF DECISION TO DONATE TELEPHONE NOTES WAS MADE BECAUSE OF STATEMENT BY NATIONAL ARCHIVIST (QUOTED BY OBERDORFER IN BRIEFING OF DECEMBER 27), SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IS NOT A CORRECT INTERPRETATION. IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN RIGHTS OF PRIVACY RAISED BY THE NOTES WHICH WERE NOT RAISED BY THE OTHER PAPERS. WHAT WAS CLEAR WAS THAT THE NOTES ON THE TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS WERE NOT GOING TO LIBRARY OF CONGRESS UNDER THE INITIAL DONATION AND THAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED AT THAT TIME. NOW THE SECRETARY HAS HAD TIME TO FOCUS ON THE SPECIAL PRIVACY ISSUE AND HAS REACHED HIS DECISION.

3. TO QUESTION WHETHER COPIES OF PHONE CONVERSATIONS WILL BE IN OFFICIAL DEPARTMENT RECORDS OR ONLY IN PAPERS GIVEN TO LIBRARY, SPOKESMAN REPLIED IT IS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THESE ARE ORIGINALS THAT ARE BEING GIVEN AND THAT THERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARE NO COPIES. SPOKESMAN WAS ASKED MEANING OF PHRASE IN ABOVE STATEMENT "NEVERTHELESS, TO AVOID ANY MIS-INTERPRETATION...". SPOKESMAN REFUSED TO GO BEYOND LANGUAGE OF STATEMENT.

4. SPOKESMAN AGREED TO TRY TO GET REPLIES TO SEVERAL QUESTIONS ON SUBJECT OF DONATED TELEPHONE NOTES WHICH WILL BE CABLED SEPTEL BY LEIGH TOGETHER WITH SUGGESTED RESPONSES FOR SECRETARY'S APPROVAL.

5. ALLEGATION BY CLARK CLIFFORD, IN SPEECH TO BE MADE LATER IN DAY, THAT LOY HENDERSON "SOUGHT TO DESTROY" PRESIDENTIAL POLICY IN 1940S CONCERNING PARTITION OF PALESTINE: ASKED HOW STATE DEPARTMENT COULD DEDICATE CONFERENCE ROOM TO HENDERSON IF CLIFFORD ALLEGATIONS ARE TRUE, SPOKESMAN SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO SEE ACTUAL CLIFFORD TEXT BUT THAT, IN ANY CASE, HE DID NOT THINK ANY CONNECTION COULD BE MADE BETWEEN ALLEGATION REPORTEDLY

TO BE MADE BY CLIFFORD AND RECOGNITION OF HENDERSON'S
LONG SERVICE TO COUNTRY AND DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZED IN
DEDICATION OF CONFERENCE ROOM.
ROBINSON

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